

Law Enforcement (FINAL)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # _____

APP # 700512

ITEM 1. Proposed Project

Our Law Enforcement project for the OHV grant program encompasses a wide variety of activities which are performed by the law enforcement division of the Needles Field Office for the administration of public lands. These activities include: delivering outreach to the public, enforcement of federal and state laws and regulations, monitoring of the OHV trail system, protection of fragile natural and cultural resources, providing emergency medical services, and ensuring the health and safety of the public land users. These activities will be conducted on the public lands that the Needles Field Office (NFO) administers which lie primarily in San Bernardino County just west of the Colorado River. The tri-county area surrounding Needles (San Bernardino County, CA, Clark County, NV and Mohave County, AZ) has a combined population of nearly 3.5 million people. As the population continues to grow, more and more people are discovering the vast amount of open space and the abundance of recreational opportunities which lie on public land located within the boundaries of the NFO. This increasing urban interface is providing new challenges and escalating the workload for the law enforcement division which is already responsible for patrolling over 3.3 million acres of public land.

The law enforcement division understands that BLM has a responsibility to educate the public about responsible uses of public lands. In order to accomplish this task, the division takes a proactive approach by providing information to visitors in the field, posting signage along our OHV route system and wilderness boundaries, taking part in special events such as "Free Fish Day", "Shop with a Cop", and Elementary School Programs, and working cooperatively with other Federal, State, and local agencies to provide a quality experience for public land users.

The Needles Field Office administers a vast amount of public land. There are 20 mountain ranges separated by eight major valleys. In 1994, the California Desert Protection Act designated 18 wilderness areas encompassing approximately 1.4 million acres. This is about 20% of the total amount of designated wilderness managed by BLM in the continental U.S. and is more acreage than any other single office in BLM. There are numerous routes which divide, cross, and parallel the wilderness areas. Many of these routes are only accessible by high-clearance four-wheel drive vehicles, all terrain vehicles, and motorcycles which are equipped for riding on unimproved roads. There are over 3,200 miles of designated open routes which lie within the boundaries of the Needles Field Office and many of the routes receive a high volume of OHV use. This provides the law enforcement division with a unique challenge. Since our OHV opportunities are in such close proximity to the wilderness areas and other fragile desert lands we have to make sure that there is a sufficient balance between BLM's multiple goals of providing recreational opportunities to the public and protecting our resources.

ITEM 2. Project Coverage

This grant will support law enforcement activities on 3,200 miles of open routes of travel found within the 3.3 million acres of public land managed by the NFO. Additionally, it will support law enforcement activities, patrols and special OHV enforcement operations in the 1.4 million acres of wilderness areas, Chemehuevi Wash Recreation area, Ivanpah Dry Lake Recreation Area, critical tortoise habitat, and the Desert Wildlife Management Areas (DWMA). Each location presents unique challenges to the law enforcement staff whose primary responsibilities while patrolling these areas not only includes the protection of natural and cultural resources, but the safety of the public as well.

ITEM 3. Describe the frequency of the patrols

The law enforcement division of the NFO operates on a schedule that affords maximum flexibility. Officers work a schedule that does not mandate predetermined hours of coverage, but instead sets specific days that each officer will work. Typically, each officer is assigned to work 10-hour shifts per day four days a week. All work schedules include weekend workdays as part of the normal assignments. This flexibility allows the officers to adjust their work hours in order to focus on the changing conditions of the resource, criminal activity, and permitted events. One of the NFO law enforcement division's goals is to take a proactive approach to detect and deter illegal OHV activity. One way that the division accomplishes this goal is to conduct high visibility patrols of the NFO's designated route system, recreation Areas, wilderness areas, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), Desert Wildlife Management Areas (DWMA), and

Special Recreation Permits on a daily basis. Due to the large amount of wilderness acreage near towns with growing populations, the division has put a high emphasis on monitoring wilderness areas. Officers are assigned patrol sectors and they will be patrolling the special areas in those sectors including the route system and wilderness areas 5 days a week for OHV activity. They also collaborate with recreation specialists in order to mitigate wilderness intrusions when they occur.

ITEM 4. Deployment of Personnel

In fiscal year 2010 the NFO will be at full staffing with 5 full-time commissioned Law Enforcement Officers. Funds obtained through this grant will be used to pay a portion of each officer's salary while conducting high visibility OHV enforcement activities along wilderness boundaries, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), critical tortoise habitat, and Desert Wildlife Management Areas (DWMA). The grant would also provide funds to cover needed law enforcement equipment. In addition, grant funding would be used to pay salaries for officers who would be tasked with assisting the recreation division with wilderness monitoring, installing regulatory and wilderness areas signs, traffic counters and surveillance cameras, monitoring open routes of travel signs and basic route maintenance, and participate in public outreach, safety and educational programs.

LE Certification

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # _____

APP # 700512

Law Enforcement - Page 1

1. Identify areas with high priority law enforcement needs because of public safety, cultural resources, and sensitive environmental habitats, including wilderness areas and areas of critical environmental concerns:

The NFO has 18 wilderness areas totaling 1.4 million acres, 13 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) totaling 96,000 acres, Desert Wildlife Management Areas (DWMA) totaling 1.2 million acres, 3 World War II era divisional training camps, the Amboy Crater National Natural Landmark, Chemehuevi Wash Recreation area, and the Ivanpah Dry Lake Recreation Area.

2. Describe how the proposed Project relates to OHV Recreation and will sustain OHV Recreation, motorized off-highway access to non-motorized recreation, or OHV Opportunities associated with the Project Area:

Our Law Enforcement Project is directly related to sustaining OHV recreational opportunities and providing access to our non-motorized wilderness areas on the public lands administered by the Needles Field Office. The project incorporates public education and outreach, enforcement of regulations, monitoring of the OHV trail system, protection of fragile natural and cultural resources, providing emergency medical services, and ensuring the health and safety of the public land users. All of these activities are aimed at strengthening OHV recreation by satisfying the various interests BLM must provide for to satisfy our mission. By educating the public we not only offer them more recreational opportunities, but we also teach them how to recreate responsibly which will diminish unintentional impacts to the resources that we are mandated to protect. In monitoring the system, we can better evaluate OHV usage and adjust our recreation plans accordingly.

3. Describe the Applicant's formal or informal cooperation with other law enforcement agencies:

The NFO law enforcement division works cooperatively with the California Highway Patrol (CHP), Nevada Highway Patrol, Arizona Department of Public Safety, Las Vegas Metro Police Department, Bullhead City Police Department, Fort Mojave Tribal Police Department, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department (SBSO), Mohave County Sheriff's Department, and Imperial County Sheriff's Department (ICSO) during informal activities involving search and rescue operations, emergency road closures, and when requested during law enforcement incidents. The division also works cooperatively with the SBSO, ICSO, and CHP during assignments at the Dumont Dunes and Imperial Dunes OHV areas, and during various outreach activities such as the Shop with a Cop program and the Needles, Ca. Holiday Parade. The division is also cross-delegated by the National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Reclamation to perform law enforcement services in the jurisdictions of those agencies.

Law Enforcement - Page 2

4. Does the Applicant recover a portion of the law enforcement costs directly associated with privately sponsored OHV events where sponsors have obtained a local permit? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

Explain

The Needles Office does not recover any law enforcement costs associated with special OHV events. The OHV events that are conducted in the Needles Resource Area are organized by either non-profit groups or small organizations that are promoting safe, responsible, and family oriented OHV use on public lands. We feel that conducting cost recovery would put a negative burden on these groups and eliminate many of the OHV events that occur on our public lands.

5. The Applicant agrees to implement a public education program that includes information on safety programs available in the area and how to report OHV violations? (Please select Yes or No) ☒ Yes ☐ No

6. Describe the Applicant's OHV law enforcement training program including how the training program educates

personnel to address OHV safety and natural and cultural resource protection:

The training program of the NFO law enforcement division consists of several courses aimed at providing the officers with knowledge to: educate the public about the mission of BLM and the many different uses of public lands, safely operate OHV's on public lands, provide medical assistance to visitors, respond to incidents involving hazardous materials, and protect natural and cultural resources. Each officer is encouraged to request any training related to OHV and public land resources that they have an interest in attending. Officers are also required to maintain proficiency in ATV operation, defensive driving, EMS First Responder, and legal updates related to public land regulations.

Law Enforcement - Page 3

7. Is the proposed project in accordance with local or federal plans and the OHMVR Division Strategic Plan? (Please select Yes or No) ☒ Yes ☐ No
8. LOCAL AGENCIES ONLY - Describe the Applicant's policies and/or agreements regarding enforcement on federal land:
9. COUNTIES ONLY - Describe how the OHV in-lieu of tax funds are being used and whether the use of these fees complements the Applicant's project:

Law Enforcement - Page 4

10. APPLICANTS WHO MANAGE OHV RECREATION FACILITIES – Describe how your organization is meeting its operation and maintenance needs:
- The Needles Field Office does not manage any designated OHV Recreation Facilities. However, the office does manage a trail system comprising over 3200 miles of designated dispersed routes. We have recently added developed camping areas at Horsethief Springs, Bonanza Springs, and Clark Mt. These areas offer OHV users a place to stage for the day or camp overnight. In addition, we also have areas such as Chemehuevi Wash and Ivanpah Dry Lake Bed which provide visitors with enjoyment similar to that which would be had at a recreation facility or open OHV area.
- The Needles Office currently manages these areas by providing law enforcement, safety and education programs, and routine maintenance to the signage and the facilities of the trail system and developed camping areas.
11. The Applicant agrees to enforce the registration of OHVs and the other provision of Division 16.5 commencing with Section 38000 of the vehicle code and to enforce other applicable laws regarding the operation of OHVs? (Please select Yes or No) ☒ Yes ☐ No

Project Cost Estimate

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:		Version # _____		APP # _____	
APPLICANT NAME :	BLM - Needles Field Office				
PROJECT TITLE :	Law Enforcement (FINAL)	PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :	G09-01-12-L01		
PROJECT TYPE :	<div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap;"> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Development</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Planning</div> <div style="width: 33%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Restoration</div> </div>				
PROJECT DESCRIPTION :	<p>Our Law Enforcement project for the OHV grant program encompasses a wide variety of activities which are performed by the law enforcement division of the Needles Field Office for the administration of public lands. These activities include: delivering outreach to the public, enforcement of federal and state laws and regulations, monitoring of the OHV trail system, protection of fragile natural and cultural resources, providing emergency medical services, and ensuring the health and safety of the public land users. These activities will be conducted on the public lands that the Needles Field Office (NFO) administers which lie primarily in San Bernardino County just west of the Colorado River. The tri-county area surrounding Needles (San Bernardino County, CA, Clark County, NV and Mohave County, AZ) has a combined population of nearly 3.5 million people. As the population continues to grow, more and more people are discovering the vast amount of open space and the abundance of recreational opportunities which lie on public land located within the boundaries of the NFO. This increasing urban interface is providing new challenges and escalating the workload for the law enforcement division which is already responsible for patrolling over 3.3 million acres of public land.</p> <p>The law enforcement division understands that BLM has a responsibility to educate the public about responsible uses of public lands. In order to accomplish this task, the division takes a proactive approach by providing information to visitors in the field, posting signage along our OHV route system and wilderness boundaries, taking part in special events such as "Free Fish Day", "Shop with a Cop", and Elementary School Programs, and working cooperatively with other Federal, State, and local agencies to provide a quality experience for public land users.</p> <p>The Needles Field Office administers a vast amount of public land. There are 20 mountain ranges separated by eight major valleys. In 1994, the California Desert Protection Act designated 18 wilderness areas encompassing approximately 1.4 million acres. This is about 20% of the total amount of designated wilderness managed by BLM in the continental U.S. and is more acreage than any other single office in BLM. There are numerous routes which divide, cross, and parallel the wilderness areas. Many of these routes are only accessible by high-clearance four-wheel drive vehicles, all terrain vehicles, and motorcycles which are equipped for riding on unimproved roads. There are over 3,200 miles of designated open routes which lie within the boundaries of the Needles Field Office and many of the routes receive a high volume of OHV use. This provides the law enforcement division with a unique challenge. Since our OHV opportunities are in such close proximity to the wilderness areas and other fragile desert lands we have to make sure that there is a sufficient balance between BLM's multiple goals of providing recreational opportunities to the public and protecting our resources.</p>				

Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
DIRECT EXPENSES						
Program Expenses						
1	Staff					
	Law Enforcement Officers	8500.000	49.000	HRS	90,000.00	326,500.00
	Notes : Base Hours					416,500.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
Agency: BLM - Needles Field Office
Application: Law Enforcement (FINAL)

2/26/2010

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Law Enforcement Officers Notes : Overtime, Sunday, Holiday, and Night Pay	1000.000	20.000	HRS	0.00	20,000.00	20,000.00
	Total for Staff				90,000.00	346,500.00	436,500.00
2	Contracts						
3	Materials / Supplies						
	Other-Misc. Supplies Notes : Misc. Supplies Includes: Batteries IT Supplies/Equipment Communication Supplies/Equipment OHV Supplies Firearm Supplies Vehicle Equipment	1.000	10000.000	EA	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00
	Other-Personal Duty Supplies Notes : Personal Duty Supplies Includes: Duty Belt Supplies Safety Gear Evidence Supplies Investigation Materials	5.000	1500.000	EA	7,500.00	0.00	7,500.00
	Other-Emergency Beacon Service	5.000	100.000	EA	400.00	100.00	500.00
	Other-Satellite Phone Service	6.000	500.000	EA	2,100.00	900.00	3,000.00
	Total for Materials / Supplies				20,000.00	1,000.00	21,000.00
4	Equipment Use Expenses						
	Vehicle Operations and Maintenance Notes : Patrol Vehicle Usage Costs	100000.00	0.470	MI	0.00	47,000.00	47,000.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
Agency: BLM - Needles Field Office
Application: Law Enforcement (FINAL)

2/26/2010

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Vehicle Operations and Maintenance Notes : Tires	5.000	1300.000	EA	0.00	6,500.00	6,500.00
	Total for Equipment Use Expenses				0.00	53,500.00	53,500.00
5	Equipment Purchases						
	Other-Night Vision Equipment	2.000	4000.000	EA	8,000.00	0.00	8,000.00
	Other-Patrol Vehicle Outfitting	4.000	2500.000	EA	7,500.00	2,500.00	10,000.00
	Other-UTV and Accessories	1.000	14000.000	EA	14,000.00	0.00	14,000.00
	Total for Equipment Purchases				29,500.00	2,500.00	32,000.00
6	Others						
7	Indirect Costs						
	Total Program Expenses				139,500.00	403,500.00	543,000.00
	TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES				139,500.00	403,500.00	543,000.00
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES				139,500.00	403,500.00	543,000.00

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
Agency: BLM - Needles Field Office
Application: Law Enforcement (FINAL)

2/26/2010

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
DIRECT EXPENSES					
Program Expenses					
1	Staff	90,000.00	346,500.00	436,500.00	
2	Contracts	0.00	0.00	0.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	20,000.00	1,000.00	21,000.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	0.00	53,500.00	53,500.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	29,500.00	2,500.00	32,000.00	
6	Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	
7	Indirect Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Program Expenses		139,500.00	403,500.00	543,000.00	
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES		139,500.00	403,500.00	543,000.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		139,500.00	403,500.00	543,000.00	

Environmental Review Data Sheet (ERDS)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # _____

APP # 700512

ITEM 1 and ITEM 2

ITEM 1

- a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No
(Please select Yes or No)

ITEM 2

- b. Does the proposed Project include a request for funding for CEQA and/or NEPA document preparation prior to implementing the remaining Project Deliverables (i.e., is it a two-phased Project pursuant to Section 4970.06.1(b)) (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

ITEM 3 - Project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378

- c. ITEM 3 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? ☐ Yes ☒ No
(Please select Yes or No)
- d. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. (Please select Yes or No) ☒ Yes ☐ No
- e. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 4 – 10

ITEM 4 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands

ITEM 5 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project

ITEM 6 - Soil Impacts

ITEM 7 - Damage to Scenic Resources

ITEM 8 - Hazardous Materials

Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

ITEM 9 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

Discuss the potential for the proposed Project to have any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources.

ITEM 10 - Indirect Significant Impacts

CEQA/NEPA Attachment

Attachments:

[2009/10 Law Enforcement Grant Departmental Categorical Exclusion](#)